Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Flood Control by Bangladesh

2259. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the 'Hindu' dated the 17th October, 1988 to the effect that Bangladesh President had turned down the 1978 Indian proposal of Ganga-Brahmaputra link Canal and that he is scheduled to visit China shortly to promote regional cooperation for flood control; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are of the view that the Indian proposal of 1978 would offer the most comprehensive benefits including flood control Government have no comments on the visit of the President of Bangladesh to China.

Construction of National Highway Bypass Near Dibrugarh

2260. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a national highway bypass near Dibrugarh in Assam;

(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey has been completed; and

(d) if so, by when the construction work is likely to start and the year of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Only preliminary survey has been carried out and estimate for the acquisition of land is awaited from the State Government. It is too early to indicate dates about the start and completion of the project.

Plan for Flood Control in India-Bangladesh Border Region

2261. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any specific plans for flood control in Indo-Bangladesh border region which would be discussed at the meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Task Force;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to involve other neighbouring countries in these discussions, as suggested by Bangladesh authorities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Government had proposed a comprehensive Scheme to Bangladesh which would moderate the intensity of floods in Bangladesh and also make available water for augmenting dry season flows in the Ganga, through the construction of three dams, a barrage and canal to carry surplus water from the Brahmaputra to the Ganga. India has also offered to share expertise with Bangladesh for devising proper flood protection measures within Bangladesh and to upgrade existing bilateral arrangements for flood forecasting.

(c) No, Sir.

Commission to Inquire into Excesses of I.P.K.F.

2262. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the articles written by Justice Krishna Iyyar in Economical and Political Weekly, recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's